

Long Beach Press Telegram

Review for Douglas Park plan delayed

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- LONG BEACH — The Long Beach City Council has delayed a Nov. 9 review of the proposed Douglas Park residential, retail and commercial project at the request of the Boeing Realty Co. Boeing executives requested the delay so they can compile information and respond to concerns by the Federal Aviation Administration about the project. The FAA has indicated a development with new homes close to Long Beach Airport is "incompatible."

"We have established a track record in our projects of promptly addressing information requests from all interested parties," said a statement released by Boeing Realty's project manager, DeDe Soto. "We look forward to answering any issues (the FAA) may have in a satisfactory manner." In a Sept. 22 letter, the FAA said putting any new residents adjacent to or near an airport is unacceptable.

Located just north of Long Beach Airport, the proposed Douglas Park calls for a 3.3 million-square-foot mixed-use development on 260 acres of former aircraft manufacturing land near the intersection of Lakewood Boulevard and Carson Street.

A new date for City Council review has not been set.

The project includes 1,400 single-family homes, town homes and apartments, research and office space, light industrial and retail, an up to 400-room hotel and 13 acres of park and open space. Demolition of the old plane hangars is well under way, and work has begun on demolishing the trademark black Boeing Co. building and pedestrian bridge along Lakewood.

"We don't consider homes built immediately next to or adjacent to airports to be a compatible land use," FAA spokesman Donn Walker said recently. "That should be no surprise to anyone. Residential developments and airports do not make good neighbors."

City attorneys recently flew to Washington, D.C., to hear the FAA's concerns.